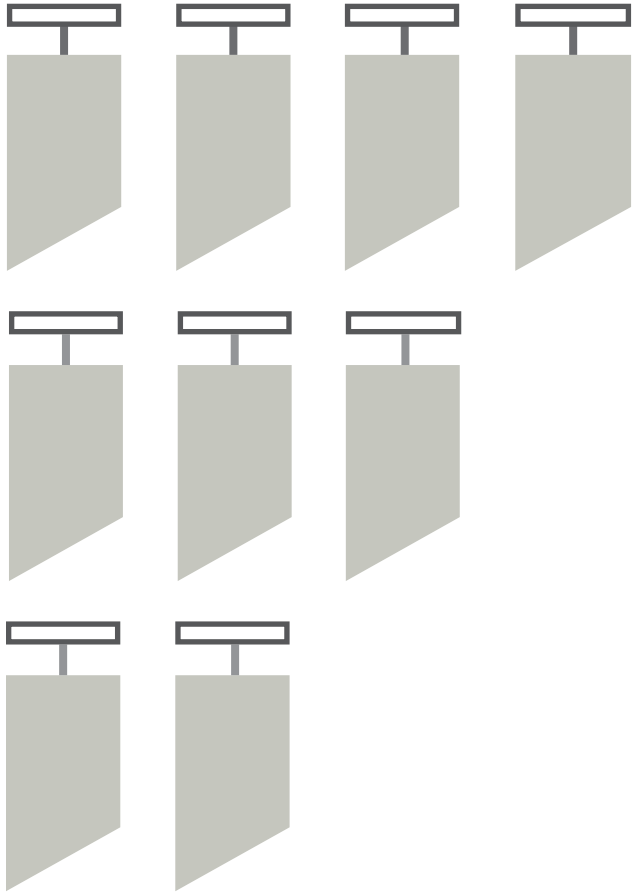
LOHANA BERKINS (1965-2016) was an indigenous Kolla activist born in Pocitos, Argentina. In 1994 she founded the trans/travesti rights group Associación de Lucha por la Identidad Travesti y Transexual (ALITT), which she led until her passing. She is remembered as one of the mothers of the travesti rights movement in Argentina, having been at the forefront of efforts that led her government to pass the world's most progressive laws on gender identity and spent her life working to protect travesti sex workers, including by forming the Nadia Echazú Textile Cooperative, which continues to provide jobs and education to the community. Berkins herself was only able to leave sex work in the year 2000; she spent nine and half years of her life in prison—a month here, a month there—"just for being a travesti." The Communist Party of Argentina, of which Berkins was a member, eulogized her as "a model of militant revolutionary politics."

Her publications include: *La gesta del nombre propio* (co-authored with Josefina Fernandez), Ediciones Madres de Plaza de Mayo (2005); *Cumbia, copeteo y lágrimas*, Editorial A.L.I.T.T (2007); and *Escrituras, polimorfías e identidades*, Editorial Libros del Rojas (2008). She was a co-founder of the magazine *El Teje*, perhaps the first trans publication in Latin America.

BOOKLET SERIES #12



Selected Writings

Lohana Berkins

trans. Jamie Berrout